



Peer Review: How to promote good living conditions for children and youth

**Kart Mere,
Vice President EAPN**

EAPN Statement

EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

RESEAU EUROPEEN DES ASSOCIATIONS
DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE
ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE

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Outline



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- Who is EAPN
 - Assessment of Norwegian Case Study
 - Rising to challenge of targeted universalism
 - Children part of integrated antipoverty strategy
 - Meaningful participation and empowerment
 - Use of Structural Funds for Inclusion
 - Key Messages

Who is EAPN?



- Independent **EU Network of NGOs** committed to fight against poverty and social exclusion, with people experiencing poverty.
- Started in 1990 – **key partner** engaging in EU Inclusion Strategy (Social OMC) now EU2020
- Receives **financial support** from the European Commission (PROGRESS)
- 30 **National Networks** and 23 **European NGOs** as members.
- **Child poverty** a key priority, within overarching anti-poverty strategy

Assessment of Norwegian Case Study (1)



Positive

- **Spatial, bottom-up approach** to inclusion for children developed with local stakeholders
- Set within **strategic anti-poverty framework** at national and regional level
- **Multidimensional, targeted approach**, beyond employment, in **universal, preventative** frame,
- **Holistic services** coordinated between local agencies – particularly affordable childcare.
- Commitment to **participation/ empowerment**

Assessment of Norwegian Case Study (2)



Some challenges

- **More results-based evaluation** needed to show how projects deliver on Action Plan goals
- **Language teaching** could be more part of integrated, personalized pathways to inclusion
- **Sustainability of project financing** and how successful approaches are **mainstreamed**?
- Embed more **structured stakeholder dialogue**?
- **Methodology** for engaging children/youth and their families as users and active partners.

Rising to the Challenge of Targeted, Universalism



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- **Universal Services** pre-requisite to prevent poverty
 - **Services for the poor are poor services**
 - *“Countries that are most successful adopted predominantly universal approach backed by targeted and individualised methodologies”*
(Frazer/Marlier 2012)
 - **EAPN NRP Assessment** : increasing cuts to universal services, replaced with targeted (UK, SL, EE) – cuts to affordability, coverage, quality
 - Norway combines universal base with targeted personalized approaches



Child Poverty as part of Integrated Antipoverty strategies

- Projects for children/ youth inclusion, part of National Action Plan against Poverty.
- Integrated, multidimensional approach to social inclusion, prioritising prevention/ development.
- Gets ownership – not implantation of national priorities but exercise in community planning.
- Peer Review on Regional and Local Action Plans (Barcelona 2010) show how to integrate target groups in overarching antipoverty strategy
- Need to integrate Local Action plans into Europe 2020 – NRP/NSR



Meaningful participation of youth/children and families

- **Children's rights approach** – the right to be heard + have a say on decisions affecting them.
- **Inclusion limited without empowerment**
- **Participation as individual** users but also as **collective** in developing policy solutions.
- **Parents/families** key partners and self-organizers.

Positive examples

- **Case management approaches:** CZ/UK/ IE
- **Alen project (social experimentation)** – empowerment of young people – mentoring life plans, forum theatre (EAPN HU, AU, Serbia and Croatia with national govt.)
- **Estonia** – Maria Village – self organized, self producing village of families with disabled children



Using Structural Funds for integrated approaches to inclusion

- **2012 EAPN NRP assessment** – Structural Funds not sufficiently used for integrated approaches to inclusion

Some positive examples:

- **Germany** – inclusion priority in ERDF and ESF: support for social and cultural infrastructure, focus on children/youth integrated local development eg Junior Railway Station, Dannenberg
- **Czech Republic** – IQ Roma Service (ESF) integrated case management approach to Roma children/youth and families – new project to increase children in secondary school.
- **But difficulties to access funds** for smaller, grass-roots projects, priority to employment only approach. (BG, UK,)

Key Messages



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- **Back targeted universalism:** show social + economic benefits of investing in prevention + costs of cuts
 - **Restrict cuts to children/young people services,** ensure access to decent income, services, + jobs for families.
 - **Support integrated, multidimensional** approaches, + personalized support, beyond employment
 - **Back bottom-up, structured community** engagement in developing local services, within overarching national, regional and local strategies to fight poverty.
 - **Prioritize empowerment** of young people and children, as users of services and independent actors, engaging families in solutions.
 - **Back EU money for inclusion:** 25% on ESF and 20% on poverty through integrated, spatial approaches.

Fighting for a Europe free of Poverty



For further information contact:
Kart Mere

Sian Jones/ EAPN Policy Coordinator.

Sian.jones@eapn.eu